

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0096

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MARCH 4 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. THE NINETY-SIXTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE MARCH 4, UNDER LUXEMBOURG'S CHAIRMANSHIP (NETHERLANDS REP DE VOS ACTING). POLISH REP (DABROWA) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. IT EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW EASTERN REDUCTION PROPOSAL AND CRITICIZED ALLEGED SHORTCOMINGS OF THE WESTERN NUCLEAR PROPOSAL OF DEC 16. THE MAIN POINTS OF DABROWA'S STATEMENT WERE:

A. DURING THE PRESENT ROUND, THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ENTERED AN IMPORTANT NEW STAGE MARKED BY FRESH IDEAS AND PROPOSALS.

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B. THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL CONSTITUTES A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND CREATES THE BASIS FOR THE EARLY ATTAINMENT OF THE FIRST CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

C. BY COMBINING ELEMENTS OF THE EASTERN AND WESTERN APPROACHES AND CALLING FOR REDUCTIONS BY THE USSR AND USA IN 1976, WITH REDUCTIONS BY THE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS POSTPONED UNTIL 1977-78, THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL PROVIDES A COMPROMISE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED AND WHEN.

D. AN IMPORTANT VIRTUE OF THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL IS THAT IT STIPULATES REDUCTIONS OF ALL KINDS OF FORCES AND COVERS PERSONNEL, COMBAT EQUIPMENT AND ARMAMENTS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

E. REAL SECURITY REQUIRES THAT ALL STATES IN THE AREA POSSESSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS REDUCE THEM AND NOT JUST ON A ONE-TIME BASIS.

F. THE EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY THE EAST ARE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUIVALENCE AND REPRESENT THE SIMPLEST, MOST PRACTICAL, AND EASIEST METHOD TO IMPLEMENT, AS WELL AS BEING ONE WHICH WOULD NOT LEAD TO A CHANGE IN THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES.

G. THE PROPOSED DISBANDMENT OF FOREIGN FORCES WITHDRAWN UNDER THE NEW EASTERN APPROACH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SECURITY OF THE FLANK STATES.

H. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER CONFIRMED THE OBVIOUS FACT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN THE AREA IS DETERMINED BY THE TOTALITY OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AVAILABLE AND NOT BY A COMPARISON OF ARBITRARILY SELECTED ELEMENTS.

I. HOWEVER, THE FAILURE OF THE DEC 16 WESTERN
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PROPOSAL TO COVER NON-US ARMAMENTS AND THE FACT THAT IT IS FITTED INTO THE WHOLE WESTERN REDUCTIONS SCHEME ARE BASIC DEFICIENCIES.

J. MOREOVER, THE EAST CANNOT AGREE WITH WESTERN INSISTENCE ON COLLECTIVE CEILINGS, WHICH WOULD ALLOW STATES TO INCREASE THEIR FORCES ABOVE PRE-REDUCTIONS LEVELS.

K. RATHER THAN STRENGTHENING STABILITY IN THE AREA, THE WESTERN PROGRAM WOULD CHANGE THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES TO THE EAST'S DISADVANTAGE, ENABLE INDIVIDUAL WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES TO INCREASE THEIR FORCES AND ARMAMENTS, AND PERMIT A FURTHER MAJOR BUILD-UP OF AIR FORCES WITHIN THE COMBINED CEILING.

1. BY CHANGING THE PRESENT BALANCE OF FORCES AND ENCOURAGING THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARMS RACE, THE WESTERN PROPOSALS COULD LEAD TO FURTHER CHANGES ENDANGERING STABILITY AND DETENTE.

M. TO ENHANCE STABILITY, A PROGRAM OF REDUCTIONS WOULD PROVIDE FOR: CONCRETE OBLIGATIONS BINDING ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS; EQUIVALENT UNDERTAKINGS LEAVING UNCHANGED THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES; AND REDUCTIONS OF MANPOWER AND ARMAMENTS OF GROUND AND AIR FORCES.

N. THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL CONSTITUTES A CONCRETE AND PROPER BASIS FOR LIMITING THE ARMS RACE AND INCREASING SECURITY AND STABILITY IN CENTRAL.

O. NOW THAT THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES HAVE MORE IN COMMON AND A CERTAIN METHODOLOGICAL CONCORDANCE, CONCRETE PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE AND WORK COULD BEGIN IN THE PRESENT ROUND ON THE FIRST AGREEMENT.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF THE POLISH STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.RESOR
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